

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

In response to the Office Action dated August 5, 2006, subsequent to the Notice of Appeal dated January 6, 2006, and in conjunction with the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) submitted herewith, no claims have been canceled, amended or added. Claims 1-12 remain in the application. Entry of these remarks, and re-consideration of the application, is requested.

II. PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

In paragraph (8) of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 9-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,654,359 (La Porta). In paragraph (17) of the Office Action, claims 3, 4, 7, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over La Porta in view of WO 98/43456 (Olkkonen).

Applicants' attorney respectfully traverses these rejections.

Applicants' attorney submits herewith a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 by inventor David J.Y. Lee and a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 by inventor William C.Y. Lee to eliminate U.S. Patent No. 6,654,359 (La Porta) as a reference.

Applicants' invention was conceived prior to December 11, 1998, and development of the invention proceeded on a continuous basis from prior to December 11, 1998, eventually culminating in the filing of the United States Provisional Patent Application No. 60/138,221 approximately six months later on June 9, 1999, which was followed by the filing of the above-identified United States Utility Patent Application No. 09/589,974 one year later on June 8, 2000. Consequently, La Porta is eliminated as a reference by the Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.131.

Thus, Applicants' attorney submits that independent claims 1, 6, and 12 are allowable over the references. Further, dependent claims 2-5 and 7-11 are submitted to be allowable over the references in the same manner, because they are dependent on independent claims 1, 6, and 12, respectively, and thus contain all the limitations of the independent claims. In addition, dependent claims 2-5 and 7-11 recite additional novel elements not shown by the references.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain

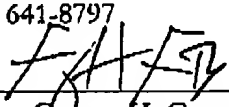
that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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